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Conservation Commission Minutes 08/06/2009

Arlington Conservation Commission
 Minutes
 August 6, 2009

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Charles Tirone, Ellen Reed, William O'Rourke, Ezra Benjamin and Catherine Garnett of the Commission. Brian Thomas, Associate member, was in attendance. Also present was Dennis Dale of Waterfield Design.

7:45pm - Commission Business

Benjamin/White motioned to approve the 7/23 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

There were reports of concerns about waterfowl on **Spy Pond**. In addition to reports of cutting of phragmites and leaving the cuttings in the water. Ms. Beckwith received the GPS coordinates of the cutting and will forward to Mr. Benjamin.

The **Town Day** booth sign needs to be modified and the board discussed options of methods and design.

8pm – **Working session** – Cookes Hollow

Mr. Dale presented the schematic design proposal for the park project along with discussed the existing conditions and issues.

The police station uses a small area next to their parking lot for winter snow removal storage operations. The trees in the park are approximately 85% Norway Maples and there are a number of other invasive plants as well.

He presented an initial concept plan for the area which included some possibilities for daylighting the stream and possibly a memorial garden for cremains on the far side of the brook. The concept design also includes pools upstream and downstream of the current waterfall. A top priority is are included with including cremains in a memorial garden (possibly in the area of the steep slope), and adjusting (and improving) the hydraulics of the Mill Brook.

The entrance needs more definition as it is easy to pass it by miss on Mystic Street. It was suggested that a signaled crosswalk at the park entrance would provide a pedestrian link to Mill Brook as it passes through the cemetery. The design includes pools upstream and downstream of Cookes Dam.

The project might need more funding than is currently on hand. It's possible there are undesignated federal stimulus funds. The Cemetery Committee Commission is also going to contribute some funding.

Waterfield will hold public meetings in early September. This will also be the time to correct encroachments.

Ms. Garnett reiterated her concern that appropriate attention and funds be spent on correcting the hydraulic problems at this site so that all the other design elements are not compromised in the future.

Mr. Dale gave his contact information to Ms. Beckwith for forwarding to the board, if they have any further comments.

Commission Business (cont.)

Ms. Garnett brought photos of the water line project on **Washington St** and asked that the large soil stockpile be

prevented from encroaching on the Conservation Land parcels and that erosion controls be placed as to contain the soil. The land will need to be restored upon the completion of the project, with topsoil and new grass.

The Commission discussed work at **70 Bow St** and **78 Bow St**. Mr. Stevens asked to confirm that the work at #70 is within our jurisdiction by use of the scaled maps from the Town's GIS. Ms. Beckwith will generate this map. And a letter will be sent to the tenant at #78 to attend a hearing in September to discuss property management.

Ms. Beckwith explained that the Town Engineer is reviewing the Mill Brook culvert replacement at **60 Lowell St**. Mr. Stevens asked that this review to the board prior to the hearing on 8/20.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Administrator